

XXXI.—*Notes upon European Birds met with during a short visit to South Africa.* By B. B. RIVIERE, M.B.O.U.

THESE notes were made between September 1915 and February 1916, and, with a few exceptions, refer to birds met with on a farm on the high veld in the eastern Transvaal, fifteen miles from Lake Chrissie and about forty miles from the Swaziland border.

Lanius collurio. RED-BACKED SHRIKE. This bird was very common during November, December, and January near Lake Chrissie. A male which I shot on 17 November was in adult plumage and showed no sign of moult.

Lanius minor. LESSER GREY SHRIKE. On 16 January I had a very close view of two of these birds on a barbed-wire fence just outside Kimberley Station.

Phylloscopus trochilus. WILLOW-WARBLER. Willow-Warblers appeared from time to time in the garden (Lake Chrissie) during November and December, mostly single birds, though on 3 December I saw three together. One I shot on 30 November was in first winter-plumage and not moulting.

Muscicapa grisola. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. Seen frequently in the garden during November, December, and January (Lake Chrissie). A specimen shot on 24 November was in first winter-plumage, one or two juvenile feathers still being present.

Hirundo rustica. SWALLOW. During the voyage out, on 19 September, when off Cape Blanco, a Swallow came on board and roosted all night in the smoking-room. Another passed the ship flying south on 20 September, whilst two more came on board on the 22nd, when off the coast of Sierra Leone and between fifty and sixty miles from land.

On 5 October I saw several in Cape Town, but they did

not appear to reach Lake Chrissie until 17 October, when I saw one. On 19 October I saw six, and from 1 November onwards they rapidly increased in numbers until, when I left this district in the middle of January, they were there in thousands. These birds struck me as being very pale on the chin and forehead. A specimen I shot on 15 December was moulting the feathers of the back, breast, and tail, the two outer rectrices being still in the quill. There were plenty of birds at Cape Town when I left on 12 February.

Riparia riparia. SAND-MARTIN. On 29 November I shot two Sand-Martins out of a small flock of about a dozen (Lake Chrissie). These were both young birds, and both moulting their secondaries, rectrices, and the feathers on the back of the neck.

Micropus apus. SWIFT. On Christmas-day a flock of Black Swifts, indistinguishable on the wing from this species, were hawking over the garden, but as I was unable to shoot one I cannot be certain of their identity.

Cuculus canorus. CUCKOO. I shot a specimen of this bird on 14 December (Lake Chrissie). It was a male, and was undergoing a complete moult from juvenile to first winter-plumage, including the feathers of the head, body, wing-coverts and primaries, secondaries and rectrices.

Falco naumanni. LESSER KESTREL. From time to time flocks of Lesser Kestrels would come in at sundown to roost in the gum-trees round the farm (Lake Chrissie). On 4 December a flock of between forty and fifty arrived, three of which I shot. These proved to be an adult male and female, neither showing sign of moult, and a young male in plumage very similar to that of the female, but moulting into the adult male plumage on the body. The crops of all three were filled with the remains of scorpions and large spiders. On 12 January many hundreds of these birds were sitting on the telegraph-wires beside the railway line between Breyton and Johannesburg.

Falco vespertinus. RED-FOOTED FALCON. On 30 December I saw a flock of about a dozen Red-footed Falcons on a barbed-wire fence beside the road (Lake Chrissie). These birds appeared to be dark under the wing, and therefore I think belonged to the western, and not the eastern race (*F. v. amurensis*).

Circus macrurus. PALLID HARRIER. This beautiful Harrier was common on the veld around Lake Chrissie. The female is the poultry-rearer's worst enemy, one my host shot on 14 November having a very long score chalked up against her in the matter of young chickens, before she was bagged.

Buteo desertorum. STEPPE BUZZARD. Fairly common on the veld in the Lake Chrissie district, and often to be seen perched on the telegraph-posts and barbed-wire fences beside the road.

Ciconia ciconia. WHITE STORK. Storks did not arrive at Lake Chrissie until 1 December, after which date they were always to be met with wandering about over the veld, or at the "water-pans." Owing to the protection afforded them as "locust birds," they are extremely tame.

Ardea purpurea. PURPLE HERON. One or two usually to be seen at every water-pan (Lake Chrissie). A female which I shot on 12 December was moulting the feathers of the head, neck, and body.

Ardeola ralloides. SQUACCO HERON. Seen several times at the water-pan on the farm (Lake Chrissie).

Streptopelia turtur. TURTLE DOVE. On the outward voyage a Turtle Dove came on board on 21 September when off the coast of Portuguese Guinea, and another on the 22nd when off Sierra Leone.

Glareola nordmanni. BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE. I picked up a dead specimen on 13 October, an adult moulting into

winter-plumage, and did not see any more until 27 December, when thousands arrived in the Lake Chrissie district and remained until the 31st. This bird, like the White Stork, is never shot, owing to its invaluable services as a locust destroyer, and it is, I suppose in consequence, quite absurdly tame.

Tringa minuta. LITTLE STINT. A flock of Little Stints frequented a "pan" on the farm for about a week in October. I shot one out of this flock on 13 October—a young bird acquiring its first winter-plumage.

Machetes pugnax. RUFF. A large flock of these birds frequented the same pan during October, November, and December, but were very wild. I shot three on 12 December which were all adult Reeves having just completed their autumn moult.

Totanus nebularius. GREENSHANK. Two seen on 4 November (Lake Chrissie).

Totanus totanus. REDSHANK. During the voyage out on 22 September, between Lat. 7° & 8° N., a Redshank appeared over the ship flying in company with three Whimbrel. All four birds circled round once calling, and then disappeared due south, flying very fast and strongly.

Totanus glareola. WOOD-SANDPIPER. This bird was very common during October, November, and December, and usually to be met with beside any river or water-pan. Two I shot on 8 November and 5 December were both adults and both undergoing full moult.

Numenius phæopus. WHIMBREL. During the outward voyage, on 16 September, when off the coast of Portugal and far out to sea, having passed 150 miles west of Finisterre, a very weary-looking Whimbrel appeared and flew round the ship, calling for about half an hour, occasionally trying to alight on the boat-deck. On the 17th at 9 A.M. (twelve

hours' run from Madeira) another passed the ship flying strongly and heading due south, and a third at 6 P.M. when in sight of Porto Santo. On the 22nd (off Sierra Leone) three more passed, flying south.

Sterna sandvicensis. SANDWICH TERN. I noticed a Sandwich Tern fishing in Table Bay on several days during the end of January.

[*Sturnus vulgaris*. STARLING. This bird, introduced at Rhondebosch near Cape Town by Mr. Cecil Rhodes in the year 1898, I found to be fairly common in Cape Town. All the birds I saw in January appeared to be in winter-plumage.]

I am indebted to Mr. H. F. Witherby for his help in determining the condition of plumage in the few birds which I shot.

XXXII.—*A List of the Birds of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, based on the Collections of Mr. A. L. Butler, Mr. A. Chapman and Capt. H. Lynes, R.N., and Major Cuthbert Christy, R.A.M.C. (T.F.). Part II* *. ALAUDIDÆ — HIRUNDINIDÆ. By W. L. SCLATER, M.B.O.U., and C. MACKWORTH-PRAED, M.B.O.U.

(Plate X.†)

INTRODUCTION.

The second portion of the List of the Birds of the Sudan completes the Passeres.

It contains descriptions of the following new subspecific forms :—

Cinnyris osea butleri, *Rhodophoneus cruentus kordofanicus*, *Tschagra senegala sudanensis*, *Cisticola erythrops roseires*, *C. e. zwaiensis*, *Parisoma blanfordi somaliensis*,

* For Part I. and map, see pp. 416–476.

† For full Explanation of the Plate, see p. 721.